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Form 10-300 (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Form 10-300a (Dec. 1968)

(Number all entries)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Mathews	
FOR NPS USE	ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

6.	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #57-8, 57-9 1968
	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45

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7. DESCRIPTION		
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CONDITION	· ·	iorated Ruins Unexposed
	'(Check One)	(Check One)
INTEGRITY	Altered [7] Unaltered [8]	Moved ☐ Original Site [K]
DESCRIBE THE	PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APP	EARANCE
The tide	mill at Poplar Grove is a two-st	ory frame structure with a gabl
•	t on a narrow mole which separat	•
	bay. The action of the tide, ca	
	d the bay, turned the large mill	
1	hose original mechanism survives	-
I	2, the mill stood in poor condit	_
	on. The sluice or race has been	
flows fro	m the lagoon to the bay through	another channel.
The earli	est portion of the Poplar Grove	house, across the lagoon, is a
small one	and-a-half story gambrel roof c	ottage which has been incorpora
	present five section house as an	-
ī	ouse is a late-eighteenth century	<u> </u>
	r Ionic portico.	
by a lace	Troffic porcieo.	
The beaut	iful setting of Poplar Grove, wi	th its broad lawns large old
I	' - -	
, ·	l fine view across Mobjack Bay, h	ias changed little in the past
century.		
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE Abor iginal Prehistoric Historic Agriculture Art Commerce Communications Conservation	Check	Education Engineering Industry Invention Landscape Architecture Literature Military Music	Political Religion/Philosophy Science Sculpture Social/Humanitorian Theater Transportation	Urban Planning Other (Specify) Architecture

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

A tide operated mill has existed at Poplar Grove since colonial times; however the present structure replaces the original mill which was burned during the Civil War. It is believed that corn was ground at the Poplar Grove mill for General Washington's troops when they camped nearby. At one time these ingenious structures were common throughout the Chesapeake Bay region but the Poplar Grove mill is the only such mill remaining in Virginia, and continued in operation until 1912.

Across the small lagoon from the mill is the Poplar Grove house, residence of the millers. The earliest portion of this rambling structure was probably built for John Patterson before the Revolutionary War. The house derives its name from the many poplar trees which Patterson planted. Patterson's granddaughter, Captain Sally Tompkins, the famous woman Confederate officer, was born at Poplar Grove in 1833.

The central portion of the Poplar Grove house was built in the lateeighteenth century by Richard Billups, a noted local builder known for his individual style.

MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL	REFERENCES					
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